1851 June 2

Lewisburg June 2nd 1851

Dear Ben

I suppose that you have wondered why I have not written before this, the reason is that I have been so unwell since I have been here that I have not had much time for anything at all, I have had the fever and ague nearly every day since I have been here. The School this Session is very thin and a great many new Students here while the best portion that were here when you were here have not returned. Professor Taylor leaves in the fall. The room that you and I used to occupy is filled with two Country jaks, Andy and I occupy the room that Mrs Elder and Dina used to Sleep in, it is a very Small room and you can imagine how warm it will be this Summer. Last Saturday I received an invitation to Mrs Conte pic nic, did you receive one? When I came up I met Lewis Merrill at the Junction on his way to West Point, he said that he would have liked to see you. Write when you answer this letter tell me when your School breaks up and breaks up three weeks from next Wednesday. Andy is still working at his trade and intends continuing it this Summer. Billinsley is not here this Session but Johnny Smith is still here. Ed Green is boarding at Mrs Bachelors with Mr McMen.

I commenced this letter last Monday expecting to send it on Tuesday morning, but on that morning I had another attack of the Ague and was very Sick all day. This morning I received a letter from you dated May 30th, and was glad to hear that you were well. I spoke to Austin in regard to that Society matter and he said that it was all right.

In your letter you say that you regret the change you have made, and would sooner be in Lewisburg, I don't think you would want to stay here this summer if you were here for a while, for the School is thin and nothing going on. I am tired already and wish the Session was over, but I think that if I had my usual health I should like it better and enjoy myself more than I do. You want me to give you all the news in Lewisburg, well to tell the truth there are very little here, but I will give you all there is. Last Monday they brought the telegraph wires to this town and hung them up in Mr Hecock's office of the Chronicle, it is now in operation. The other day Cox Thrift & Stag McFadden inquired very affectionately for you. Your fair One Jones is teaching School, She has about twenty-five Scholars; as I passed there the other day she was standing at the door, She looked at me very hard enough to say where is Barny. The house that Mrs Elder used to occupy last winter, they are putting an extension to this Summer. Well Ben I think that I have given you all the news in Lewisburg at present. Harry Ford is here this Summer. Alfred Hays has quit School. F. Y. Zeller is not here this Session. Jim McGregor nor the Trueffitt boys are not back. N. Hacker is here. Tommy Hoover is not here.

Ben I shall have to close as I have nothing more to say. When you tell me when your School breaks up and when you expect to be in Harrisburg. Write very soon

Your Affectionate
John S. Forster

Mr. Benjamin S. Forster
Tennant School
Hartsville
Bucks. County
Pa

1851 June 13

Lewisburg June 13th 1851

Dear Ben

I received your truly kind letter dated June 9th by yesterday's mail. I am glad to hear that you are well and beginning to like your new School, which I hope will continue so. I am attending to my Studies as usual, and it is beginning to go quite well. By this time I have got rid of the Ague, having had nothing of it for the last ten days and I hope that it is a going to leave me altogether. This town is most ~~lucky~~ outrageous dull, and the Students that are here this Summer are not much better. You wish to know whether they are any new young ladies here this Session, there are a few, but the majority of them are from the country and of course very Dutch, Harry Johnston's Sister and Pennypackers daughter are among the best looking, you can form some opinion what kind of looking girls are here this Summer. Mag McFadden and Em Christ inquired very affectionately for you the other day; of course I gave them a full account of your whereabout and also your best respects. You wish to know when Lewis Merrill will be at West Point and his directions. He is to be there between the first and twenty first of this month, the direction is this. Cadet Lewis Merrill. U. S. Military Academy. West Point. New York that is all that is necessary. You say that Frank Church is to be at your School, you can tell him where I am and that I would like to hear from him, when he has leisure time; ask him how long he expects to remain in Harrisburg, and tell him that I will be in Ch. about the twenty first of August and

should like to ~~hear~~ see him very much if he would still be there. Ben did you leave a pair of slippers in the Outpost room Ed Green says that there is a pair there and he thinks that they are yours, when you write tell me if they are yours and what I shall do with them. I told Ed Green what you said about his entering Yale college in the fall, he says that he dont know yet whether he will go to college in the fall or not, but that he is not a coming back to this place. You say that you had a letter from Lil Rutherford and she says that Alick Johnston and Vam Lawrence are beginning to go with the girls, that is a move that I never expected to hear, as for Vam I always thought that he was too bashful, and for Alick it may do him some good, as it may take away some of his rowdyism, I wish them both good luck. I had a letter from Father a few days ago, they are all well at present, he says that Mr Stevenson has sold out his stock of groceries and returned to Baltimore. I wonder what poor John Murphy will get at, I should like to hear very much. Father says that Mary Simons is in Harrisburg with her two children, and that Henry has returned home, he thought that the place did not agree with him, I think that he had a good reason to think that the place did not agree with him, as I understand he was sent away.

I suppose that as your place is so small that there will not be much going on, on the fourth of July although this place is so small, they are trying to get up something. There is to be a party on that hill opposite to Northumberland comprised of persons from this place Milton, Muncy. Williamsport and all the small towns around, I think that if I can get off I shall go down in the afternoon. The school has also speaking by members of the Junior Collegiate class, I believe that Messrs Blakeley. Armstrong. Lane. Still and McLoud are the speakers. Last Saturday afternoon the fire company had a parade, the company

is composed of about thirty members, the people in this town thought that it was something grand to see them, but it was nothing compared with the firemen of Harrisburg.

Ving is spending this week in Milton with Miss Schroer of this place, she expects to be down on Saturday.

Well Ben I shall have to close as my pen is very bad, and is getting worse every line I write. So good bye, give my best respects to all that inquire for me.

Your Affectionate &c
John. F. Forster

P. S. Answer very soon.

your friend J. F. F.....

Mr. Benjamin L. Forster
Yennard School
Wartsville
Bucks Co.
Pa.

1853 Jan. 10

Hartsville Jan 10th 1853.

My Dear Mother

I am again at school, and I hope soon to be again at study. I came out on Saturday afternoon, and left James in the city, and think he will be there till Thursday. I spent a very pleasant time in the city. I saw Mrs Eldridge, Mrs Douglass and the Dickesberry's. (I fear I have not spelled the name right) Mrs Eldridge is a very pleasant lady (I took dinner and tea at Capt Johnstones, in deed I was there most of my time,) she looks very well. They all seem to think a great deal of James.

I did not see Jennie Mokon as I did not know her address, and if I had, I could not have found time to call on her, but James will, before he leaves the city. James did not mention, what his business in the city was, and I heard nothing while there, if his intention to do as we suppose, we will h[illegible]

Mrs Eldridge has two fine children Stu[illegible] Lillie, and I think she feels the loss of little Kate as they call her very much. Stuart is I think very intelligent for one so young. I felt as much at home there in a short time, as if I had been at home, and I was sorry to leave the city, before I was generally glad to get out of it. I have told the Mess[illegible]

long when I want to go to college, and they say I can do it. but I make my self perfectly easy on that score, as I know there will be no difficulty if I do as I ought to. I suppose you do not see so much of Bob and Mont since James is gone, and you have less trouble about the smoking. I have not yet get over the low spirits, that always attend me on leaving home, and I look back to these little things with loving, and a wish that they were to do over, as you said after I have home, I always see things that I might have done better, but you know that it was not from a want of affection that I did wrong, but from a habit I have gotten to. Do not think that this is the repentance attending home sickness, I may think of it more just after leaving home, but I often think of it. I shall write to Father on Friday. I have written quite a long letter and I will close. Give my love to Father. Grandfather and the children, Write soon to

Your affectionate son
Benj. L. Forster.

P.S.

I should like very much if you could send me the papers during the session of the Legislature, I have written a short letter to James to know when he would be at Erie. I will expect a letter soon from you, as I always am anxous to hear from home, and I

hope you will not disappoint me. Give my love to Aunt. Adieu.

Ben.

1853 Nov. 27

Yale college Nov 27th 1853

Dear Mother

I have just returned from church, my fire is out and the room very cold, I will write but a few lines I recieved your letter some days ago, and should have answered it sooner, but I am now very busy and can find but little time to write, the term is drawing to a close, and it will take every moment of my time, to regain my stand, it is a very difficult matter when once below average, to come up, but I don't despair but that I will succeed. tell father, that on last Friday I asked Prof. Wadley whether I was improving my stand, he told me I had made considerable improvement. I increased it $\frac{15}{100}$, which is considerable, but I am still low. Yet I have every hope that I will succeed. Thanksgiving day is over. it is here a day very much like our Christmas, and it was a very cold one we did not have cold weather before that. I have a great many letters to write but my friends will have to do without answers until I have more time at my disposal, we are terribly driven here, we recite three times a day, and even if one does not study still there is a great deal of care on his mind. You must not expect me to write often, or long letters the remainder of this term

but as I find the improvement I have made I will let you know it. I think the improvement is not on Greek alone. But my room is too cold for me to write longer in it. Write soon. Give my love to Father, Grandfather and all, I will answer Dodie's letter as soon as I can. Your Son Affectionately

Benj. L. Hotter.

P.S. The $\frac{15}{100}$ was in Greek alone, and I think I have made a greater improvement on each of the others.

1853 Dec. 16

Yale college Dec 16th 1853.

My Dear Father

When I wrote to you on last Sunday. I said that I would ask Professor Hadley's advice, as to my going into the examination, I have done so, and he advised me not to do so, but either to take leave of absence or a dismissal, he told me, and my friends also, that I would not succeed at the examination, and that it would be far better for me to, withdraw myself than, be rejected and I have taken a dismissal, or at least arranged it, that I could do so when my bills are paid, and in such a manner that I could again enter my class. Professor Hadley wished, me to enter the next class, but I told him that I did not wish to do, and that you would not wish it, that if I entered college again, it would be with my present class, for I knew that if I could have had one more week, I could have passed the examination; and that is all that is required, but as I have been very regular I could give no reason for having it put off. You said in your letter that you thought, that thus far, my education had been misdirected. I know that it has been, I feel that the Messrs Long did, not do me justice, and when I left there they told me I was prepared for college. I was not, and I have failed, in those studies they paid the

the least attention to. I have failed to realize my own expectations, when four months ago, I came to college it was with a certainty of success, and although now I feel downcast, and disheartened, yet it may be the means of arousing my energy, it has certainly opened my eyes to one fact, that talent alone will not answer, it needs energy with it. For your sake, and that of my Mother I regret that I have not taken a stand in college, for I know that you placed great confidence in me, if what Prof. Hadley says is true I leave college with a good character and if I can pass an examination on the studies of this term and the next there will be nothing to prevent my going on with the class, he told me it would not be required of me to be again examined on the preparatory studies.

I wish to leave New Haven, as soon as possible and when you write to me, tell me whether I shall bring my books with me or leave them here. No one at home need know that I have not passed that examination, as it is quite customary to remain a way from college one term. When you write tell me what to do. Give my love to Mother, Grandfather,

Your Son affectionately
Benj. F. Forsyth.

P. S. I have done, as I thought you would have wished me to do had you known the circumstances.

Benjamin

1853 Dec. 26

New Haven Dec 26th 1853.

Dear Father.

This morning I received your letter containing a draft for $50. You say that my letter was as deficient in information as the former one. My bills are $91, with the money I received I will pay my bill at my boarding house, and then there will remain $46 unpaid, the money I have received this term I have an account of, but it will be impossible for me to return home before my bills are paid, as they will not let me go, and I cant get a dismissal before my term bill is paid and I will have but four dollars, and that would not bring me far. I am sorry for it, as I am doing nothing here, and am but a trouble to my friends. What things I have that I would wish to sell, cannot ~~now~~ be sold, at present and when sold will not bring much. Do you wish me to sell my books. I had intended to bring them home. My bill unpaid are nearly $46, and money to come home on, and until my bills are paid I cannot leave, as the man with whom I room will not permit me.

Your son affectionately
Benj L Porter.

I have paid my board bill, and my landlady told me that unless I intended to remain next term she could not keep me longer, so that I will have to go to a hotel.

Ever ann

GEO: H. IRWIN,
Attorney-at-Law,
Office: No. 3½ N. Third Street.

1874 Oct. 31

Harrisburg, Penna., October 31st. 1874

Dear Ben:

I shall be greatly obliged to you if you can arrange the matter about which we spoke, by next Tuesday when I expect to be in town. I dislike exceedingly to ~~speak~~ allude to it in any way & only do so because of your having first voluntarily mentioned it & because I am urgently in need of some revenue just now, as I am pushed ~~up~~ closer to the wall than ever. On the strength of your promise I have got myself into a straight & don't see how I can get out

I write you only because I have been away since last Tuesday & am going away again to be absent until next Tuesday noon. If you can do me the favor requested you will really very much oblige

Yours &c

Geo: H. Irwin

To
Benj: L. Forstey Esq

1875 May 3

Mechanics' Bank,

Harrisburg, Pa., May 3 1875.

W. J. Otto Esq., ~~Cashier.~~

Dear Sir:

Yours of is received.

I enclose, for collection and credit,

Unless the note of Mr B. L. Forster is taken up within a few days I will put it in the hands of my atty for collection

Mr Forster is trifling with me & I will not permit it

Respectfully,

J. C. Bomberger,
Cashier.

1875 May 28

May 28th 1875

Dear Ben:

You will not only favor Mr. Espy but myself also, if you can find time to fix up the bond according to promise. He left town last Tuesday morning for an absence of several weeks, but before going he gave me positive instructions to have the new bond substituted for the old one. I should like very much to accomplish this so that he can lay no blame on me on his return. It is unpleasant to me to assist on calling your attention again to the matter, but I need only mention the duties of counsel to find my excuse.

Yours &c

Geo: H. Irwin

2

Benj: L. Forster, Esq

1875 July 30

Harrisburg July 30/75

Mr B. Forster

Sir Please call and settel your account as we are in nead of money the ballance of your account is fourty three dollars & Ninty five cts, from last settelement do not dissapoint us and you will Oblige

Yours Respectfully
Myers & Bro

1878 Mar. 12

Jersey Ville Northd Co March 12th/78

B. L. Forsyth Esq

Dear Sir: I will be an applicant for Superintendant of Public Grounds at Harrisburg. If the present Legislature does not pass an act giving the appointment to the Governor alone I wish you would see Schell & Noyes and urge my appointment. And oblige Your old Friend

R. Montgomery

1882 Jan. 20

Jan. 20th 1882

Rev. L. Foster Esq.

Dear Sir

If convenient to you I will be much obliged if you will call at my house at 7½ to 8 this evening

Yours Truly

Chas. L. Bailey

Called upon Mr Bailey
I am enemy = discum-
they could not celebrate

D.

WILLIAM E. BAILEY,
Harrisburg, Pa.

1887 Apr. 12

April 12th 1887

Benj. L. Foster Esq.

Dear Sir:

I was sorry not to see you when you stopped on Friday evening. And the servant should have called me as I was sleeping quite soundly on account of headache.

If you are not engaged I will be pleased to see you this evening from 6½ to 8 P.M.

Yours Truly

Chas. L. Bailey

Benj. L. Foster Esq
No 7. South Front St
Harrisburg
Pa

[n.d.]

Hanesburg March 15th

Dear Friend

I received your letter last thursday. The first thing I must tell you is that Miss Street has gone home to prepare for her wedding she went last monday and did not bid any of us goodbye she said she knew it would affect her so much that she would not be able to go that day I never loved a teacher as much as I loved Miss Street I guess you think that is the way you never love her till she is gone but it is not so with me I always did love her and always will our new teacher just came to school. I cannot judge what she will be on so short an acquaintance but I must confess she is not much for beauty and I don't think Mrs Le Conte will ever get another teacher like Miss Street

the girls are all raving raving on Dr. [illegible]ing he is to go on in three weeks the new teachers name is Miss Etore. The Hutchinsons are to sing in Harrisburg to night and tomorrow I intended going to night and then Miss Parker gave us ninety pages in Geology and then I thought I might as well give up all thoughts of going as I have a great many other lessons besides. There a paper here from Gale called the Gale Banger. I thought perhaps you might like to see it and I would lend it to you it is pretty poor thing I must say and I think they are a pretty bad set of boys that edit it I dont think there was ever a boy unless he had very high moral principals went to college that did not return worse than before they went. the freshmen are so persecuted by the Sophmore classes that in their eagerness to see their ambition leads them astray and before they are aware of it they are acquainted with all the vices of a college life and then the temptations are so great that unless you have great firmness of character you are scarcely able to resist them and if you do not resist them

you grow worse and worse till you are expelled and thus you are paid for your folly. this is my own private opinion I guess you think I have given a long lecture about that paper and it was not worth writing. Mrs Hales bed room caught a fire and Kate Buchlar reported this afternoon that Miss Harry said he saved nearly all the clothes except her hire pon concerted boy ended I pity him. I have not read the story you alluded to in your last letter but I am going to try and get it to read Jim Shank supplies me with books from the State Libary but I have not much time to read as I have so many studies to attend to but my letter is getting rather long and I must close or you will get tired reading it. Your friend

Lill.

P.S. please tell me how Jim Cohum is some person wants to know write soon.

[n.d.]

Hamilton February

Dear Friend

I received your letter yesterday I thought as we had not any school I could answer your letter then examination passed off very well the Celestines party which was in the evening the house was crowded the girls were all dressed in white with blue sashes the compositions were read by Miss Street and Miss Parker in the day the lessons were recited the reports read and two magazines given to who ever had the best report. We all feel greatly relieved since it is over you asked me why Mrs Le Conte closed her school so early she has not closed it it does not close till July. Was Rose Brooks here when you were in Hamilton I mean Mrs Le Conte sister she

is very ugly but I think she is the most affectionate
girl I ever knew she and I are great friends. We have
another bright character in our school Hate Hammond
she boards at Shunks if want to know what
of a girl she is just ask Sim Shunk she is
Eva Bishops husbands sister neither Sim nor her
speak to each other sometimes for week she says
Sim is to dumb and Sim says she is to dumb
she cant talk. I have just finished reading the
Vale of Cedars I think it is the most beautiful thing
I ever read. the character of the jewess is a good
deal like the jewess in Ivanhoe. I suppose you
have read it one of Scotts novels they both have
the same firmness of character I intend to read
it over again I admire it so much Sim
Shunk supplies the girls with books he is about
half crazy about Anna Pierson she does not go
to school any more and never goes out of
the house Sim goes down there and looks in
the window and watches Anna Said caught
him and Alex the other night I suppose
you know he has got a clerkship worth 600

a year the girls plague him a good deal
about it. Maggie McKinley has left school and has
carried on quite a flirtation with Green Simonton
there has been a great many sleighing parties this
winter. Mrs Le Conte had one for the school and
each girl bought teen cents they went in four
large sleighs each sleigh had a teacher in they
went all around town six or seven times. Bell
Garland and Kate Doll have been very intimate
Kate was over at Garlands last Jennie Machen
dancing last night. Tom Shank gets a letter from
Alick Johnston about once a week Alick does not
like Pittsburg none of them like it I have had
two or three letters from Nannie she said she
would rather live in Hanching. There has been
a good many girls staying at Mrs Dolls Rosa and
Mollie Pepper Ann Cammel. Kate Hammond would
have gone there but Mrs Doll could not take
her. But my letter is getting rather long and I
must close it I have not seen your mother to day

Your friend
Lill Ruth

Dauphin County,

Dauphin County,

Benj. Foster Esq.

Steamer St. John

Pier 16

Barney 84 Nassau St
New York

[n.d.]

Lewisburg May 2nd

Friend Ben,

I recieved your letter and was glad to hear from you; but sorry to hear that you did not intend to come back to Lewisburg. I made all possible haste in packing up your books and lamps. I think the lamps will carry safe. "As good luck would have it", Johnson Walls' boat started this morning and I put the boxes on board of it. The captain would not stop at Antes' ware-house, as he had to stop at Johnson's. You will find your goods there. There are two boxes, directed to Gen. John Forster. It cost me about 50 cts to pack them. If Mother is in H., you can pay her.

Give my respects to your Father and Mother and to your Brother's family. Excuse Haste.

Your's truly,

Andie Elder

P.S. Write me soon.

Andie

Mr. Benjamin L. Forster
Harrisburg
Dauphin Co.
Penna